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V.

ON A SCIENTIFIC SPECIFIC FOR INTEMPERANCE.

In the light of the recent results of pathological research, there is determined to be a modification of the sweeping and oft-heard statement that the excessive use of alcohol beverages conduces to procure injury to the health. In point of fact the statement is not true of all alcoholic liquors. If they are charged with fusel oil, their use tends to cause disease of the cerebral convolutions, which disease may eventuate in insanity, or may be but one of the symptoms of some affection of the special senses. If, however, the beverages are free of the obnoxious oil, there is not produced any such effect. In other words, alcoholic liquors made impure by fusel oil (amylic alcohol) poison the brain, and induce "amylicism;" but such liquors, containing pure ethylic alcohol to exclusion of that which is amylic, merely excite the cerebral functions, inducing the condition known as "ethylism."

This is proved both directly and indirectly. If two puppies are fed, the one on the whisky of the saloons, and the other on the purest product of distillation, the autopsy of the former will show a diseased brain, while the brain of the latter will be found to be normal. Again, a century ago men drank larger quantities of rum than they can now, and found no harm, all because the old-fashioned liquor had none of the modern deleterious character.

In view of these facts, and of the human inclination toward indulgence in alcoholic drinks, it remains for social science to notably contribute to the cause of temperance by making provision against amylicism by means of the media of the condition of ethylism. The time demands, not the prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and use of all alcoholic liquors, but the substitution of the ethylic for the amylic alcohol, of exhilarant for toxic action, of liquors that will not inebriate for those that produce alcoholic drunkenness.

The ills of intemperance can be entirely avoided by abstinence from liquors vile with fusel oil, and by the use,—either moderate or excessive,—of those that are free from it. If men will drink alcoholic beverages, let them be those which are pure, and, by reason of their purity, will not be a factor in the ruin of body and soul. Let the cupidity of the manufacturer and dealer be checked by a law which shall make it a crime to produce, sell or use the poisonous liquors; and let encouragement be given to those who shall undertake to provide pure ethylic alcoholic beverages, harmless to the brain, medicinal in value, deficient in toxicity. Such prohibition, married with such encouragement, will appoint the only scientific specific for the evil of intemperance.

WILLARD H. MORSE, M. D.

VI.

THAT CHINESE WALL.

THE American free-trader is a paid or "honorary" political district messenger, who delivers the messages and does the errands of the English Cobden Club. When the Cobden Club takes snuff the American free-trader is forced to use his bandanna. He has a hard job, at times, poor fellow, to reconcile the obvious self-evident interest of England and of other foreign powers to invade our markets without hindrance or toll with the equally obvious self-evident fact that such an invasion would operate to the detriment of American manufacturers, American workmen, American homes, and every development of American welfare. It would compel the American citizen to defray all the expenses of maintaining the American governments—Municipal, State and Federal—all indispensable to the maintenance of the American market—and yet give the untaxed foreigner the same advantage as the heavily taxed American therein.